

REVISED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Florida is poised to implement its newly revised birth certificate on January 1, 2004. We have addressed this topic in several newsletters this year, so everyone should be aware of what is coming.

Numerous regional trainings were held in the fall to introduce some of the specific changes and their origins. These trainings were designed to prepare the people involved in the birth registration process, local vital statistics staff as well as birth registrars in hospitals, birthing centers and midwives, for the upcoming changes on the record. Brookins Communications Inc., the vendor who offers hospitals software for generation of the birth certificate, has assured us they will have the revised certificate before January 1, 2004.

Most facilities will operate a "dual" system for a time in early January. 2003 birth certificates will continue to be prepared using the old version of the birth certificate, while all 2004 births will be entered on to the revised birth certificate form.

Any questions regarding the revised Florida birth certificate should be directed to the chief deputy registrar or to the quality assurance field representative.

CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CDRAC members are excited with the changes going on with the revised birth certificate. The revised record seems to flow much better and items are easier to understand. The regional trainings have been very successful and the quality assurance personnel have received quite a bit of input from all participants, which helps in preparing for the January implementation. Those county vital statistics offices who hosted the trainings should be congratulated on a job well done!

The QS system, an update to the state office vital records registration system, is also coming next year and we are looking forward to the challenge! Training for CDRs is to begin sometime in March 2004 and the state office will provide detailed information on the particulars after the holidays. We finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, YES!

We, the members of the CDRAC Committee, would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.



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IN-HOSPITAL PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The State Office of Vital Statistics works cooperatively with Child Support Enforcement (CSE), Department of Revenue, to allow unmarried parents to name the father on the birth certificate at the time of birth. Recent discussions with CSE have informed us that a witness, in lieu of a notary, is no longer acceptable on the birth certificate paternity affidavit. It is imperative that each hospital, birthing center and midwife has a notary available to notarize the signatures of both parents wanting to complete and sign the paternity acknowledgement while still at the hospital.

The 2004 Birth Certificate revision has the paternity acknowledgement on the *front* of the birth certificate. We hope this change will bring paternity acknowledgement and its importance to the forefront of the parents' attention.

In a case where a father is unavailable to complete the paternity acknowledgement at the time of birth, we ask the hospital to give the unmarried mother the Consenting Affidavit of Paternity, DH 432. Any time after the birth, this form can be completed by both parents, notarized and submitted to the state office. There is a \$20.00 processing fee to amend the birth certificate to show the father's name. To obtain a supply of the DH 432 forms, contact your local vital statistics office.

For questions on paternity acknowledgement reference the Vital Records Registration Handbook or your Chief Deputy Registrar.



HOSPITAL COMPLIANCE —LIST OF CHAMPIONS

The following hospital/birthing centers have maintained a rate of 90% or more for filing birth records on time for the first, second, and third quarters of 2003. There were 13 hospitals/birthing centers that maintained *perfect* compliance for all three quarters and 52 facilities were in the 90%+ range. These facilities are to be congratulated on their outstanding performance!

100%

Birthing Center of Gainesville
Family Birthing Center of Naples
Family Birthing Center of Miami
W. Florida Regional Medical Center
US Naval Hospital/Pensacola
Highlands Regional Medical Center
Gulf Coast Hospital
Munroe Regional Medical Center
E. Pasco Medical Center
Pasco Community Hospital
Flagler Hospital
Santa Rosa Medical Center
Milton Memorial Birthing Center

90%+

Women's Center at North Florida
Shands at University of Florida
Shands at Alachua General
Broward General Medical Center
Coral Springs Medical Center
Plantation General Hospital
Northwest Medical Center
Memorial Hospital West
Bon Secours/St Joseph Hospital
Citrus Memorial Hospital
Orange Park Medical Center
North Collier Hospital
Baptist Hospital of Miami
Mt. Sinai Medical Center
Desoto Memorial Hospital
St. Vincent's Medical Center
Memorial Hospital of Jacksonville
Baptist Medical Center of Jacksonville
US Naval Hospital/Jacksonville
Sacred Heart Hospital
Baptist Hospital of Pensacola
University Community Hospital
Indian River Memorial Hospital
Cape Coral Hospital

Lee Memorial Health
Capitol Medical Center of Tallahassee
Tallahassee Memorial Regional
Columbia Blake Medical Center
Manatee Memorial Hospital
Martin Memorial Hospital
Lower Florida Keys Health System
Baptist Hospital/Nassau
96 Medical Group, Eglin AFB
Ft. Walton Beach Medical Center
North Okaloosa Medical Center
Osceola Regional Medical Ctr.
Palm Beach Gardens Hospital
Community Hospital of New Port Richey
Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital
Mease Hospital
Morton F. Plant Hospital
Lakeland Regional Medical Center
Heart of Florida Hospital
Winter Haven Hospital
Putnam Medical Center
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
South Florida Seminole Hospital
Memorial Hospital at Ormond Beach

BIRTH REGISTRAR TRAINING VIDEO

The Birth Registrar Training Video and accompanying Facilitator Guide were provided to all chief deputy registrars when they attended the fall training on the revised birth certificate. This video is the second in a series of training videos being developed to assist the CDR in providing necessary training in birth registration. Use of training videos helps ensure uniformity in the training process and information provided throughout the state.

Most hospital and birthing center staff as well as midwives were trained at these same training sessions. Those unable to attend one of the regional sessions will need to contact the chief deputy registrar to schedule their training.

PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY

The 2003 Legislature created the Florida Putative Father Registry (House Bill 0835), which addresses the issue of a man who believes he may have fathered a child and wishes to file a petition to assert his legal rights. He is not added to the birth record, but should the child be placed for adoption, he must be named a party to the proceedings. Accordingly, this registry is very important to ensure the potential father's rights are not overlooked.

The operation of the registry is a state official function and the Adoption Unit within vital statistics has the responsibility for filing a claim of paternity, updating the registry relative to change of address, naming a representative or the revocation of a claim of paternity. They also are responsible for searching the registry and providing a certificate as to the results of the search.

Should you get any calls regarding the registry, please contact Lorraine Kratz at (904)3 59-6900, ext. 1081 or the call group of 9001.

NEW FORMS ON THE INTERNET:

Application for Florida Birth Record,
DH 726

Application for Florida Death Record,
DH 727

Affidavit to Release a Birth Certificate,
DH 1958

Affidavit to Release Cause of Death Information,
DH 1959

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/
planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html)



WELCOME ABOARD

The following appointment has been made to the position of Registrar:

Local Registrar:

Ronald E. Bray	Clay County
Raymond E. Collins	Martin County
Lillian Rivera	Miami-Dade County
Steven Tullos	Taylor County
Paul Boisvert	Wakulla County

Chief Deputy Registrar:

Mindy Kelley	Franklin County
Helen Gamwell	Wakulla County

GREETINGS FROM THE STATE REGISTRAR

The holidays are upon us and everyone in the Office of Vital Statistics looks back on a busy, but satisfying year. It seems each year brings its own set of challenges and rewards. The biggest news for 2003 is the preparation for the January 1, 2004, implementation of the revised Florida birth certificate, a process that has all of us appreciating the importance of cooperation with other agencies on both a state and national level. We were fortunate to work with professionals at both of these levels in order to arrive at what we consider to be a good, serviceable document that will better enable us to monitor the health of Florida's mothers and babies. At the state office, we have been developing an upgrade to our current system of birth registration and have targeted January 1, 2004, for implementation. By the summer of 2004, all counties will also be utilizing this new system for issuance of computer birth certifications, thus allowing all vital statistics offices the opportunity to offer an even higher level of customer service.



We continue to take advantage of monthly conference calls with the county vital statistics offices. This is an important mechanism for communication and discussion of ongoing activity within vital statistics. The Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee has been exceptionally useful again this year in the development and implementation of standard applications for certifications for the state office and county offices, as well as in the review and discussion of several other projects of importance. Working closely with county health departments, hospital and birthing center staff, midwives, funeral directors and their staff, medical examiners, and private physicians helps us recognize the vital role they play in serving Florida's citizens in both personal and legal matters. This time of year provides the perfect opportunity to acknowledge their efforts and thank all of you who help Florida maintain one of the best registration systems in the country.

As State Registrar, I want to thank everyone for their continued commitment and support; we are all part of a team dedicated to success. I look forward to another year of achievement and wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year!

C. Meade Grigg, State Registrar

FAQs ON REVISED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

1. If the certifier and attendant are the same person, must both items 10 and 12 be completed?
Yes, this is a change from the current birth certificate.
2. Should a positive result from the GBS protocol be entered under item #44, "Infections Present &/or Treated During This Pregnancy?"
Yes, a positive GBS or beta strep is to be entered under "Other."
3. If the Hearing Screen or Metabolic Screen hasn't been performed prior to the completion of the birth certificate, but will be done prior to discharge should these items be marked "done?"
No, only report what has actually happened at the time the birth certificate is prepared. A situation could arise where the screenings are not done or are declined by the parents.
4. Is 2400 acceptable for a birth at midnight using the 24 hour clock?
No, a birth at midnight is the beginning of the day and should be reported as "0000" in item #5 of the birth certificate. The 24 hour clock begins at 0000 and ends at 2359.
5. If it is the first pregnancy for a mother, how should items 42a-e be completed?
Items 42a-b, Previous Live Births, Number Now Living and Number Now Dead should indicate "0;" Item 42c, Date of Last live Birth, should indicate "None;" Item 42d, Other Pregnancy Outcomes, should indicate "0;" Item 42e, Date of Last Other Outcome, should indicate "None."



BITS 'N PIECES

- Annual reminder to all preparers of vital records and to the vital statistics staff who review them: be aware of the change in year when dating records. Be sure to **use the correct year** to avoid amendments.
- The warehouse has a supply of the **revised applications for amending birth and death records**. The Application for Amended Florida Birth Record, DH 429, 06/03 and the Application for Amendment to Florida Death Record, DH 524, 06/03 obsoletes all previous editions of the forms; all other versions may **not** be used. CDR's should order a supply of all forms. When completing the above applications and requesting certified copies at the same time, the applicant *must* be an authorized person. If the funeral director is applying, he/she must indicate the name of the person they represent and that person's relationship to the deceased. If this information is not provided, the certification will not include cause of death.

The statistical tables, along with the past issues of the Vital News, can be found on the department's website at the following address:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/Vital_Statistics/VitalNews/vn-index.html

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